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JANUARY 1952
Vol. 2 • No. 1

Our PUBLIC LANDS

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

JANUARY 1952 • Volume 2, Number 1

OUR PUBLIC LANDS . . .

500 million acres of land that belong to us and to our neighbors and to all the people of the United States . . . public lands that are rich in natural resources . . . timber, rangeland, water, minerals, and land for every use . . . "active acres" that must be carefully and wisely managed for the welfare of the Nation . . .

As a forum for the exchange of ideas and information on the development, utilization, and conservation of the resources on public lands, this periodical contains no copyrighted material. If pictures or material are reprinted, a credit line should be given Our Public Lands *and the Bureau of Land Management.*

Carlos Whiting, *Editor.*

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Alaska's Eklutna Lake, near Anchorage, is the site of a Bureau of Reclamation project. The cover photograph is by BLM's Information Officer Norma R. Hazeltine.

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MINERALS ON PUBLIC LANDS

by **CLARENCE R. BRADSHAW,** *Assistant Chief Counsel*

The public lands of the United States which in the past were so important in furnishing free homes and farms to our growing population have also served—perhaps less obviously, but equally effectively—to supply the minerals which have made us the leading Nation of the world.

The Thirteen Colonies supplied the first minerals. They still supply them in large quantities. But the bulk of the iron, oil, and seventy-odd other minerals now is use come from the public lands, or lands that once formed part of the public domain.

The mineral land in the Middle West, including the vast iron resources of the Lake Superior region, was sold before 1850 for $2.50 per acre. Congress, up to then, had no definite mineral policy. Its attempt to lease lead and salt between 1807 and 1946 was a failure, and it was only after the discovery of gold in California, and the "gold rush" of 1849, that it reserved mineral lands from sale. Eighteen years later, after 900 million dollars worth of gold and silver had been taken in trespass, but with the implied consent of Congress, the first mining law was passed—to be followed in 1872 by a comprehensive mining law.

These laws gave the public minerals to the finder, who could hold them by doing $100 worth of work annually on each claim of 20 to 160 acres. He could, but need not, buy the land at $5 per acre for minerals occurring in veins, or $2.50 per acre for minerals in other form. Since then 2,750,000 acres of mineral land have been patented and these lands have produced many billions of dollars worth of minerals. The production of these minerals built and settled the West, speeded construction of transcontinental railroads, and more than any other one thing helped win all our wars since 1860.

In 1916 and 1920, coal, oil, gas, oil shale, potash, phosphate, sodium and (later as to Louisiana and New Mexico) sulphur in public lands were made subject to lease. Unlike mining under the mining laws, which is entirely uncontrolled by Federal law, mining under leases must be conducted with a minimum of waste and with a view to conserving diminishing supplies.

Although recent and applicable to the less settled parts of the Nation, more than 300 million dollars worth of minerals were produced under these laws in 1950—of which over 25 million dollars in royalties went to States and the Federal Reclamation fund to maintain schools and roads, and construct dams for irrigation and power in the areas where the minerals were produced.

The public lands in 1950 contributed only 4 percent of our oil and gas production, but their 685 million acres—plus the vast area of shallow continental shelf seas bounding us—contain upwards of 40 percent in area of the possible future oil provinces (areas thought to be prospectively valuable for oil), and perhaps over 50 percent in volume of possible oil-bearing rocks. They contain most of the coal, oil shale, and tar sands which will supply our oil when the wells run dry. The public land States in the Rockies and on the Pacific Coast, with some help from Alaska, supply nearly all of some and over half of others of the seventy-odd minerals we produce yearly. They contain the best prospects for our future supply of all minerals.

The phenomenal increase in the use of minerals shows the importance of the public lands to future mineral production. The 1850 census lists 15 minerals valued at $38,763,257, *less than four-tenths of 1 percent* of our 1949 production of more than 75 different minerals valued at 10½ billion dollars. This vast increase, coupled with the paradox of our present and rapidly growing deficiencies in many minerals, is causing concern. Most surface exposures of minerals have been found. The mining laws are not suited to producing minerals buried deep in the earth. Once over 1,000 mineral patents were issued yearly. Today 100 is the average.

The Government is now forced to stock pile minerals to insure its safety from attack, and has found the need to subsidize miners to get essential materials mined.

If we want to preserve our way of life and secure our liberties, we must take stock of our mineral position and do what we can to improve it. BLM, charged as it is with the disposal of all Federal mineral deposits, has a primary responsibility in the performance of this task.

TAKES COURAGE PLUS CAPITAL . . .

TO HOMESTEAD IN ALASKA

If you have courage plus capital you can make a go of homesteading in Alaska. That's the opinion of those who are making a success of pioneering in the Territory.

They are agreed that courage alone is not enough. You've got to have money, first of all to clear the land—roughly $200 an acre. You've got to have money to buy equipment to build a house, and to live until the land begins to produce. Some homesteaders figure that a man can make out on $2,000 as starting capital; others say he better estimate his needs at $5,000.

Is homesteading in Alaska worth this price? The folks who have weathered it are agreed on these points. There is basic satisfaction in carving a new home from a frontier country.

Homesteader Larry Lancashire on the Kenai Peninsula, who has just finished putting lighting and water systems in his house, has found Alaska farming mighty hard work, but with a satisfied grin he admits he wouldn't trade his piece of land for any acres he could have gotten "Outside."

Frank and Frances Sorensen who have converted a quonset hut near Palmer into a delightful home, adding a front entrance and landscaping their grounds, agree that they could not have as many comforts so soon if they didn't have his disability pension. Sorensen was the first veteran to be wounded in the Aleutians. He and his wife and children have done all the work themselves, even installing an oil-burning furnace and a beautiful modern bath. Their quonset hut is warm and cheerful and a gathering place for other homesteaders who have found the Sorensens helpful in solving land problems, as well as being most hospitable. Two coffee pots keep rhythmic time perking away on the Sorensen's kitchen stove. With all their work, this couple and their two small boys have found energy to beautify the grounds leading to their nearby shore line on Paradise Lake.

The Senskes, Bill and Iola, who live on the fringe of the Matanuska Valley, call themselves "old timers," but like many other Alaskans, they don't look one-half their years for they have found the secret of youth in keeping happily occupied. Their vegetables are so large they look like Hollywood illustrations for the word "colossal," and the

(Continued on p. 22)

LETTUCE. Alaska's "greenbacks"—giant heads of lettuce—help the Ty Wilsons build a new house on their Palmer homestead.

SLED DOGS. Homesteader Senske, of Wasilla, feeds sled dogs—companions and helpers of Bill and his wife Iola.

TOWN OF TOK. Regional Administrator Lowell Puckett points out the town site of Tok, carved from public domain along the Alaska Highway.

NEW TOWNS FOR ALASKA

by VICTOR FISCHER, *Town-site Planner,* Region VII

Alaska towns may be divided into two kinds—old communities generally characterized by their haphazard growth, and those that are being carefully planned to make living easier and to allow for possible future expansion.

The Bureau of Land Management is not only assisting at the birth of new cities in Alaska but it also has the responsibility for managing the trustee town-site program in the Territory. Under trustee town-site work, established communities on the public domain are surveyed and the inhabitants are granted title to the land they already occupy.

The majority of existing Alaska towns have gone or are going through this patenting process. In almost every case, BLM is providing additional public land within the town site for future growth of the city. An attempt is always made to relate such town-site additions to the original town pattern. This sometimes proves to be a difficult task due to the lack of rhyme or reason in the way the old streets were laid out.

Take the town of Kodiak as an example. Kodiak dates back to Russian settlement of Alaska. Its streets are notable for their sharp turns and narrow width. Historically interesting, these ancient thoroughfares will not accomodate modern traffic.

Among the examples of unplanned towns is Kotzebue, which clings to the edge of the seashore—muddy ruts radiating from main street to the new nearby Wien Memorial airport and to the Alaska Airlines landing strip on the outskirts of the city proper. This little Eskimo village,

(Continued on p. 20)

THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S . . .

MAJOR OBJECTIVES

by MARION CLAWSON, ***Director,*** **Bureau of Land Management**

In a democracy, the people are the final arbiters and architects of social policy. When the total population exceeds a relatively small number, democracy must function on a representative basis. In the United States, Congress and the President, as the elected representatives of the entire citizenry, formulate national policy. The President or his representatives propose legislation and implementing appropriations, and the Congress approves or rejects the proposals.

We in the Bureau of Land Management, as public servants, must be bound by the national policies established by the President and the Congress. In our case, those policies find expression in a voluminous mass of land laws passed in the last 160 years. National policy is frequently obscured by the maze and detail of specific legislation. In many cases, we have been granted considerable discretion in our actions.

For these reasons, a brief and general statement of our broad objectives or goals seems desirable. Given the national policies as expressed in legislation, and given the physical characteristics of the land we administer, just what are we striving to do?

The following paragraphs give the major objectives of the Bureau of Land Management.

MAKE RESOURCES AVAILABLE

The first objective of the Bureau of Land Management is to make the public land resources available to and usable by the general public. Public land resources belong to the people of the United States and should be used to promote the general welfare and for the public good. Our job, as public servants, is to facilitate use of the public lands.

PREVENT DESTRUCTION OF RESOURCES

The productive capacity of the public lands should be kept up, at least to its present level. This means the prevention or minimization of destruction, wastage, erosion, fire, and similar forces. In *using* resources, we must be careful not to *destroy* them.

INCREASE PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY

Prevention of resource destruction is often not enough; resources must be created, or built up, or rebuilt, in many areas. The productive capacity of the public lands, should be increased wherever possible and to the degree which is sound and economic. Reseeding or other regrassing measures, tree planting, construction of erosion control structures, and similar activities may be necessary. As our population grows and our economy expands, we need *more* resources, and the public lands must be built up to do their share.

PROMOTE MULTIPLE USE

Much of the land under our jurisdiction can be used at the same time for two or more uses . . . as forestry and grazing, or forestry, grazing, and watershed protection, and other combinations of use. By promoting multiple use of land, we both make it available to the public and increase the total *usable* land resource. In no small part, the basic reason for Federal land ownership is the possibility of multiple use, and thereby obtain greater use without destruction under Federal than under private ownership. One of our big jobs in BLM is to minimize actual or potential conflicts between various public landusers.

OPERATE EFFICIENTLY

All Federal agencies have an obligation to operate efficiently, but we, perhaps, have a special obligation in this regard. Unless we can act quickly and with a minimum delay, the resources we administer will in practice be unavailable to or unusable by much of the public. Prompt and efficient action need not mean relaxation of our guardianship over the valuable resources entrusted to us. Our success in provision of prompt and efficient service in the last three years has been most gratifying, but we must continue to strive for even better service to the public at even lower cost. *Decentralization*, to bring our operations closer to the public, and *area administration*, to coordinate all aspects of our operations at the local level, are the two most important factors in prompt and efficient service to the public.

HELP OTHER COUNTRIES

We should make available to other countries the results of our specialized and professional experience. Our main job is here at home, in managing the lands under our jurisdiction. But we should be willing to help other countries. Without interference with our major program—often with benefit to it—we can provide technical assistance to other countries that need it. In many countries of the world, a sound land-management program is basic to all economic and social progress.

INFORM THE PUBLIC

The people of the United States, as our employers, have a right to know what we are doing with their property and with their funds annually made available to us. If we are to achieve our goals—which we understand to be national policy—then we must have the cooperation of the local citizen. To cooperate, he must be informed. Therefore, a competent program of information, with emphasis upon facts rather than propaganda, is essential.

Attainment of these broad objectives, and realization of more specific programs within them, depends upon the full cooperation of all BLM employees. We are a team . . . at Washington, regional, and district offices. Each of us has a role to play, and the success of each aids and strengthens the efforts of everyone else. As we achieve these goals, we will not only perform a valuable public service, but we will also obtain real personal satisfaction in a good job well done.

DEATH. Fire kills trees and wildlife . . . and death reigns over the land for a decade before grass and brush gain a foothold.

FIRE CONTROL IN ALASKA

by VANCE A. TRIBBETT, *Chief,* Branch of Forest Protection

Fire control on Alaska's vast areas of public land is one of the major administrative problems confronting the Bureau of Land Management. To talk of resource conservation and development is futile unless adequate measures can be taken to suppress fires, such as burned over 2 million acres in 1950 and laid waste thousands of acres in populated areas this season.

The very factors which contribute to Alaska's growth are factors which bring new fire problems. Alaska's "roof of the world" location and its store of untapped resources has attracted increasing attention to the strategic value of the Territory and the possibility of profitable resource development. Recognition of these values has resulted in expansion of both military and civilian activities with a corresponding increase in fire-control problems. Recent developments increasing the difficulty of protecting forest and rangelands from fire include:

GROWTH OF POPULATION

During the past 10 years the civilian population of Alaska has grown from 72,524 to 126,661, an increase of 74.6 percent. Most of Alaska's residents use the public domain for business or pleasure, and the heavier the use the higher the risk of wildfire.

ROAD AND RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION

Nearly 1,000 miles of new roads have been built by the Alaska Road Commission in the last 10 years. The Territory is presently served by a network of 3,149 miles of roads, and the program of the Commission involves continued expansion of this road system. Each mile of new road poses new fire-control problems.

TOURIST INDUSTRY

The recently formed Alaska Visitor's Association will embark on an extensive publicity campaign to draw tourists northward. Many of these visitors are ignorant of the fire problem in Alaska and unaware of the need for extreme care.

MILITARY ACTIVITIES

In addition to the increased risk resulting from recreational use of the public domain by troops, the construction of military installations and training activities involving the use of incendiary and tracer ammunition and incendiary bombs increases the fire danger and requires additional fire protection facilities and personnel.

Alaska's development is dependent upon two values: its strategic geographic location and the resources lying under, in, and above its soil. It is poor business to allow these resources to be destroyed by fire when protection can be provided at a reasonable cost. Conserving soil by protecting the vegetative cover through the expenditure of a few cents per acre for fire control is more economical than its rehabilitation after burning at a cost of several dollars per acre. Similarly, protecting timber from fire actually costs but a fraction of the outlay required for a program of artificial reforestation. Continued depletion by fire of the resources of Alaska at the current rate cannot be sustained indefinitely without permanently impairing the economic potential of the Territory and jeopardizing its strategic value.

Included among the resources subject to fire damage are:

TIMBER

Forest lands requiring protection support an estimated timber volume of 700 million cords or the equivalent of 350 billion board feet. It has been estimated that not more than 20 percent of the original white spruce forest remains. Due to the characteristic climate of the region, long periods of time are required for timberlands to recover from fire damage. In some instances severe burns and reburns have so altered site qualities that natural reforestation is nearly hopeless.

WILDLIFE HABITAT AND DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK RANGE

Fur, fish, and game constitute some of Alaska's richest resources. Wild fires destroy game habitat, alter migratory routes and adversely affect normal cyclic wildlife populations, interfering seriously with the development of long range wildlife management programs.

The new domestic livestock industry is dependent upon public domain grazing lands. There are an estimated 4 million acres of public rangeland with an estimated grazing capacity of 1 million animal-unit months. Protection of these lands is of cardinal importance if the livestock-producing potential of the Territory is to be realized.

SOIL

Short summer seasons and slow humus decomposition make soil formation in the Territory a lengthy process. Removal of the ground cover in a region of little rainfall results in rapid wind erosion of loess soils over extensive areas. Soil depletion resulting from this type of erosion on burned over areas has been responsible for lowering timber lines as much as 1,500 feet.

Permafrost is characteristic of many areas of interior Alaska and requires protection of the soil mantle to preserve this source of soil moisture. Loss of the single layer of fertile topsoil capable of growing higher plant life may render an area valueless for wildlife, livestock, or agricultural purposes for centuries to come.

STREAM FLOW

The water storage capacity of forest and range is affected materially by repeated fires. Mining companies dependent upon large supplies of water for hydraulic excavation have had to develop water supplies as far as 90 miles distant and build multimillion dollar dams in Alaska as a direct result of the effects of fires on natural watersheds.

In addition to damaging land resources, wild fire interfers with air travel. The presence of smoke over large areas for extended periods makes flying difficult or impossible, except for military or commercial aircraft with necessary special "blind flying" equipment. In a country where air travel by light planes is relied upon extensively for both business and recreation, the presence of smoke palls constitutes a very real danger. Adverse atmospheric conditions attributable to fire may also hamper the collection of meteorological data necessary in the evaluation of continental weather conditions.

Fire-control problems in Alaska are far too big to be handled adequately by the staff and facilities now available to the Burea of Land Management. If no more than a minimum of protection were to be provided, it would be necessary to augment the present fire-control program materially.

Serious losses sustained during recent years point up the need for greater fire protection.

ALASKA—THE GREAT LAND

OUR CHIEF FRONTIER, AWAITING DEVELOPMENT OF MAGNIFICENT RESERVES OF LAND, RESOURCES AND PEOPLE FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE NATION

To the ears of English-speaking peoples, the native word al-ay-ek-sa sounded like "Alaska"—the name for the Great Land. The great land of Alaska is today the Nation's last physical frontier. To many Americans from Boston, San Antonio, Los Angeles and points between, the Territory is also a land of bewildering contradictions . . . it is a "world of ice and snow, polar bears, fur animals, and Eskimos" and at the same time it is said that Alaska is a "virgin territory open to exploitation of its vast reserves of timber, minerals, lands, and waters."

Alaska is one-fifth the area of the 48 States and stretches north and south, east and west, in its extremities, almost to the extent of continental United States. Naturally enough, Alaska has all the elements within it which are part of the average American's stock of conceptions . . . polar bears and grazing livestock, ice-bound shores and river basins of great potentialities for power and development.

The romantic dream which is hardest to dispel is perhaps the idea that of Alaska's 365 million acres many millions of acres are open to settlement. With the limitations of soils, climate, and accessibility, probably less than 2 million acres are suitable for settlement under present conditions. The Bureau of Land Management today is working to the limit of its resources to survey and open these lands to the many individuals clamoring to enter the Territory.

The responsibilities of a land-management agency like BLM—administering 80 precent of Alaska—are vastly greater than the mere parceling out of farms and the issuing of permits to utilize the surface and mineral resources. The lessons of history, now barely learned, show that study ust precede any land use and that careful coneration must be given to each interest—grazing, estry, mineral, settlement, wildlife, recreation, etc.—before land is withdrawn for one purpose or disposed of for another.

Thus, lands of potential value for settlement on the Kenai Peninsula were withdrawn for agricultural study. Today, with the problems of land utilization better understood, these lands can be opened to homesteading or other use and developed according to a plan that will greatly facilitate the economic growth of the entire area.

Outside of national forests in Alaska, on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, are 100 million acres of wildlife area and range, and 125 million acres of forest and wood-d. Of this acreage, 40 million acres of timber ve commercial potentialities. The rest serves an important role in watershed stabilization.

Alaska birch may soon be utilized in the development of new industries, particularly furniture manufacture. Lumber and pulp from public lands await inventory, survey, access roads, and sustained yield management before contributing greatly to the economy of the Territory. Coal, marble, gravel, clay, and limestone are of special value in local development.

Gold, salmon, and furs are traditional wealth that have flowed for decades from America's great northern Territory. While each retains important laces in the economy, other products are being eveloped. Exploratory fishing opens vistas of new wealth from the adjacent sea. BLM is encouraging through the lease of grazing lands a growing livestock industry. The exploration and development of mineral reserves in Alaska strengthens the entire economy of the Nation.

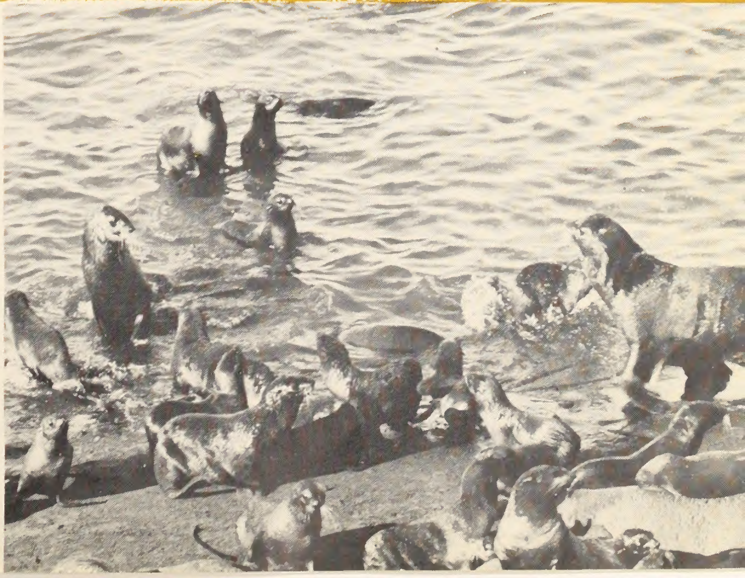
Alaska is a growing land, becoming increasingly of economic importance, and occupying a strategic position of unparalleled military significance. No American can afford to forget the great land of Alaska is the Nation's chief frontier.

OOSE. Alaska's heritage of wildlife is typified by this se standing in a field near Palmer.

NATIVES. The Bureau of Indian Affairs is concerned with Alaska's Aleuts, Indians, and Eskimos—like these King Islanders.

LOG BARN. Homesteader Larry Lancashire invested money and labor to clear Kenai land and build a home and barn.

FUR SEALS. Most valuable of Alaska's fur resources are the fur seals managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

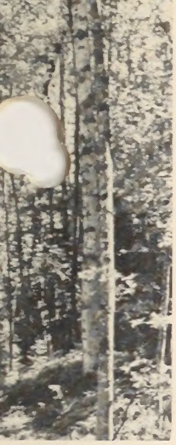


ALASKA BIRCH. Large acreages of promise to support new industries suc manufacture.

VITAL ROAD. The "bread and but the Kenai Peninsula, like this one, will a to settlement and homesteading and af markets.

THE WISE USE, CONSERVATION, AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALASKA'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONTRIBUTE TO THE STRENGTH AND PROSPERITY OF THE WHOLE NATION

MATANUSKA VALLEY. It takes years of savin hard work to build a home like this on virgin land.



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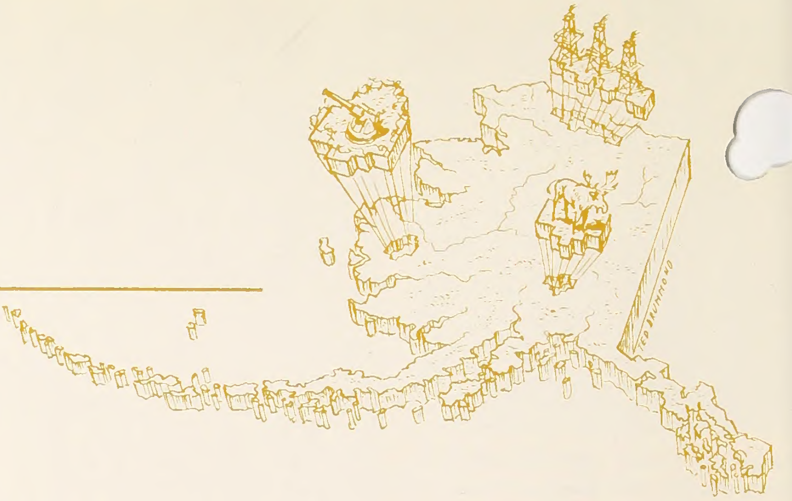
FISH RESOURCES. Exploratory fishing may open new resources to development, but the Alaskan salmon remains king of the sea.

GOLD DREDGE. Symbol of the frontier, gold is still sought . . . but emphasis today is increasingly on strategic minerals.

FORESTRY BUILDING. Near Homer, BLM's timberland management and fire-protection headquarters is this new building.

ALASKAN WITHDRAWALS



by **VIRGIL O. SEISER,** *Appraiser,* Division of Lands

Alaska is reputed to have a cold climate. However it warms up considerably whenever local citizens comment on "withdrawals."

The term withdrawal is applied to the reservation of public domain lands for some public or governmental purpose and the withdrawal of the land from sale or disposal under the public land laws.

In the past, withdrawals were made upon request of agencies within and without the Department of the Interior for whatever area the agency determined was necessary for its needs. The majority of these requests concerned military needs, school reserves, power sites, lighthouse reserves, and air navigation sites, and were usually of small size. A few exceptionally large withdrawals were made for national forests, monuments, parks, and the military. Alaskans generally realize the need and purposes of these types of withdrawals.

The physical handicaps and present economic conditions which are encountered in Alaska require the guidance of prospective homesteaders to lands with favorable soils and access to markets.

Recently, however, the subject of withdrawals has become confused in the minds of many prospective settlers, particularly in regard to the withdrawals for classification made on areas of the Kenai Peninsula, and the Dunbar and the Chena areas in the Tanana Valley.

These three places, considered as potential agricultural lands, have drawn the interest of many prospective homesteaders. The lands have been withheld for further settlement because they were not readily accessible due to lack of roads, and the fact that information on the extent and distribution of lands with agricultural soils was not available to guide prospective settlers.

Detailed studies of the areas initiated by the Department of the Interior in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture are nearing completion. By withholding these lands, settlers will be saved many costly mistakes in choosing land unsuitable for agriculture. Rectangular surveys, essential to eventual patenting of land, are being made and access roads are being extended in the more favorable areas.

Studies of the Kenai area withdrawn for classification have been completed. Plans have been made to restore suitable lands to entry and to provide for the construction of necessary access roads.

Studies by the Geological Survey in the Dunbar area revealed that permafrost conditions are so prevalent that clearing of the land for cultivation would likely prove unsuccessful. The Dunbar area has now been restored to entry, but settlement has not taken place in view of the existing conditions. The extent of permafrost conditions for the Chena area is also being determined.

Military activities and population increases in Alaska, particularly near Anchorage and Fairbanks, have also focused attention on reserved areas and created controversies over private versus public needs of Federal lands.

A reservation of land for a specific purpose often permits the sale or use of the forage, timber, gravel, minerals or other resources on the land.

The Bureau of Land Management realizes the importance of revoking or reducing the size of withdrawals when the need for the reservation no longer exists. This agency also realizes the need for the review of withdrawals in Alaska and a closer scrutiny of proposals for new withdrawals.

An inventory of withdrawals is now under way. This review is directed toward the revocation of unnecessary withdrawals and the modification of those withdrawals on which resources on the withdrawn lands can be made available for disposal or use of resources, where such disposal or use will not interfere with the primary purpose of the withdrawals.

Withdrawals of lands and public management of certain resources on the withdrawn lands often contribute to the development of Alaska. Two recent instances of this are the pulp mill development at Ketchikan which will have a continuous supply of raw materials from the national forests and the hydroelectric developments at Eklutna Lake, a Bureau of Reclamation project located on lands which were withdrawn specifically for power purposes.

RANGE MANAGEMENT IN ALASKA

by **N. TALMAGE NELSON**, *Range Conservationist,* Region VI

Every summer luxuriant stands of grasses and forbs flourish throughout Alaska on vast areas which, for the most part, are still little used for grazing purposes. The potential value of this extensive natural forage resource has long been recognized, as evidenced by the fact that on March 4, 1927, more than 7 years prior to passage of the Taylor Grazing Act pertaining to public domain grazing lands within continental United States, the Congress enacted legislation providing for the protection, development, utilization, and management of public domain grazing lands in the Territory of Alaska.

It is interesting to note that as early as the eighteenth century domestic livestock were grazed in many parts of Alaska while it was under Russian rule. Since purchase of Alaska by the United States in 1867, numerous sporadic attempts have been made by private individuals and companies to develop large-sized cattle and sheep operations within the Territory. Nearly all of these livestock endeavors have been located in the southern part of Alaska near the shores of the Pacific Ocean, where climatic conditions are moderated by the warm ocean current known as the Alaskan Eddy.

For various reasons, however, even though the most promising part of Alaska had been chosen from a climatic point of view, these initial livestock operations have not been successful from an economic standpoint. Predators have continually taken a large toll; the combination of inadequate transportation, communication, and marketing facilities has been a further handicap; and withdrawals of extensive land areas within the past several years for other uses has disrupted normal management of the few hitherto active livestock operations.

While such localized ventures have proven conclusively that parts of Alaska are well suited for livestock raising, these hazards and difficulties have prevented as yet the creation of organized marketing facilities, and, as a result, the livestock industry within the Territory has failed to develop to any significant proportion.

At the present time, with meat and fiber shortages becoming increasingly acute in the world's economy, operators in continental United States are seeking new areas for expansion of the livestock industry, and large sums of private venture capital are available for investment in Alaska. Consequently, despite the numerous handicaps and restrictions, the Bureau of Land

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active acres

ACTIVITY MAP

One of the Nation's great storehouses of natural resources is Alaska—a vast area comprising some 365 million acres of relatively untapped wealth. As the BLM activity map on page 23 shows, 290 acres of the total area is unreserved, unappropriated public domain administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

In carrying out its chief objective in Alaska—orderly settlement and development, use and conservation of the Territory's natural resources—the Bureau of Land Management is faced with multiple problems. Of primary concern is the lack of cadastral surveys. Although BLM cadastral engineers surveyed over 28,000 acres during fiscal year 1951, 99 percent of the total area of Alaska remains unsurveyed. In spite of this obstacle, the Bureau is advancing as rapidly as possible in its settlement programs by providing areas for homesteads, small tracts, town sites, and lands for industrial, military and recreational purposes.

Proper management of 125 million acres of forest and woodland and 100 million acres of wildlife area and range, and maintenance of a fire-control organization to protect timber and watersheds, are other BLM activities in Alaska.

The activity map also indicates that the Bureau has a responsibility in the development of minerals, including oil and gas, tungsten, copper, lead, tin and zinc, coal, marble, gravel, clay, and limestone.

EDUCATION

A new phase in the field of conservation teaching is a 3-year project recently launched by the National Association of Biology Teachers with the assistance of a grant-in-aid from the American Nature Association.

Biology-teacher workshops to be held at the local, State, regional and national levels, will use descriptive material of outstanding teaching techniques as a basis for initiating or developing stronger conservation programs in the schools represented.

Royale K. Pierson, BLM's Chief of Soil and Moisture Conservation, is a member of the Advisory Committee which will assist the National committee in organizing and guiding the conservation-teaching project.

AT RANDOM

Considerable progress has been made, during the 17 years since the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act, in arresting accelerated deterioration of the Federal rangelands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Yet the greatest potentialities of this vast area—nearly one-tenth of the United States—can only be reached through a comprehensive program of resource conservation and development. In REBUILDING THE FEDERAL RANGE, a 24-page, well illustrated booklet issued by the Bureau of Land Management, BLM submits for discussion and study a comprehensive report on the policies and techniques of its present restorative program. The Bureau's major lines of approach in rebuilding these lands to their greatest productivity are outlined.

The Farmers Home Administration, Department of Agriculture, provides financial assistance to homestead entrymen through Federal mortgage loans for the construction of buildings or improvements on the land. Regulations stipulate the procedure to be followed by homestead entrymen, including entrymen on Reclamation projects, and specify that final arrangements for a mortgage loan between the applicant and the Farmers Home Administration are not completed until after the homestead entry has been allowed by the Bureau of Land Management. The entryman does not need to wait until he has obtained title to the homestead. Those interested in obtaining such a loan should consult their local Farmers Home Administration office.

From Ketchikan to Point Barrow, Alaska produces an abundant harvest of wild as well as cultivated varieties of berries, states an Alaska University and USDA publication entitled ALASKA BERRIES. Hardy strawberries, raspberries, currants, and gooseberries are easy to cultivate as far north as the Arctic Circle. The wild berries—currants, blueberries, lingonberries, highbush cranberries, and the salmon berries—are the most abundant wild fruits.

A new information series entitled, "Do You Know That?" has been initiated by the Bureau of Land Management's Alaska region, explaining in a simple manner public land regulations, especially those applicable to Alaska. A brief statement on a selected regulation is "cartoon-illustrated" by Mrs. Lorna R. Follensbee, secretary to Regional Administrator Lowell M. Puckett.

FOR THE RECORD

One of the principal tools of the cadastral engineers of the Bureau of Land Management is the Ephemeris, an astronomical almanac containing tables and charts of the sun, Polaris, and other selected stars. Stellar "sighting points" serve as fixed positions upon which scientific calculations are based to aid in the determination of the true meridian, the correct time, and the latitude of the point of observation. In recent years, the BLM Ephemeris has also listed 28 equatorial stars. Although BLM manages no public lands in the Southern Hemisphere, the addition of these stars increases the usefulness of the Ephemeris to the military—which makes use of the stellar almanac in its world-wide mapping, navigation, and engineering activities.

BOOK SHELF

What about getting this one —
Bea

IRRIGATION ENGINEERING, Volume I, by Ivan E. Houk, ELEMENTS OF PLANT PROTECTION, by Louis Pyenson, and PRINCIPLES OF WEED CONTROL, by Gilbert H. Ahlgren, Glenn C. Klingman, Dale E. Wolf, all published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York City, 1951. These three books are of special value to soil and moisture conservation and range management personnel. They deal, respectively, with agricultural and hydrological phases of irrigation, the protection of crops from mammals, insects, birds, diseases, and weeds, and the scientific control of all types of weeds. As basic textbooks on their subjects, the three books provide background reading for those individuals preparing to study specific rangeland problems.

JOURNAL OF POLITICS, Volume 13, Number 3, the Southern Political Science Association in cooperation with the University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla., August 1951. With the thought that "the fate of all peoples is even more deeply involved in our relation to the natural resources which our world affords," this issue of the Journal is presented as a symposium of essays on some of the most "urgent issues" in the conservation field. One of the contributions is BLM Director Marion Clawson's article, Administration of Federal Land in the Public Interest.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION IN AMERICAN SCHOOLS, Twenty-ninth Yearbook, American Association of School Administrators (a department of the National Education Association of the United States), Washington, D. C., 1951. An Administrator's guide, this yearbook outlines "challenges, guides, practices, materials, and facilities" which should be helpful to school administrators in expanding and improving school programs of conservation education so necessary to the "prosperity and welfare of our people."

AMERICAN FOREST POLICY, by Luther Halsey Gulick, Duell, Sloan & Pearce, Inc., New York City, 1951. An Institute of Public Administration study, the book considers the central question: In the area of forestry, how has the Government sought to influence the economy, through what devices, with what results in administration and to the economy? An interesting feature in the book is the emphasis given to the vigor and effectiveness of the forestry profession. An excellent introduction to the study of American forest policy, the book lacks the bibliography needed to make it something more than an outline.

ILLUSTRATIONS

The photographs on page 11 of the fur seals and on page 13 of salmon are from the Fish and Wildlife Service and were taken by E. P. Haddon and George Kelez, respectively. The fire on page 7, the moose on page 11, and the birch on page 12 were photographed by BLM's Roger R. Robertson, Regional Chief of Forestry in Alaska.

All the photos used in this issue of OUR PUBLIC LANDS, with the exception of those credited above, were taken by Norma R. Hazeltine, Information Officer of the Bureau of Land Management. The drawings throughout the publication are by Theodore Drummond, Division of Cadastral Engineering, except the illustration of It's the Land Law, which was prepared by Ruth Segall of the Branch of Records Management.

RANGE MANAGEMENT IN ALASKA

(Continued from p. 15)

Management is striving with the limited facilities at its disposal to administer the management of Alaska's natural forage resources in a manner which will encourage such expansion and provide some assurance for potential investors of a stabilized livestock industry within the Territory, thus effecting a welcome contribution to the development of Alaska and the security and welfare of the Nation as a whole.

Along with the general public's increased requests for grazing privileges in Alaska during recent months, the Bureau of Land Management has been offering these privileges to applicants, insofar as is possible, through a system of leases and permits.

Grazing activities are most active at the present time in the portion of Alaska extending from the Matanuska Valley north of Anchorage, where dairy and beef cattle are most prevalent, to the southwestward as far as Umnak Island in the Aleutian Chain, where sheep raising is the primary livestock endeavor. Particular interest in livestock raising, however, is mainly centering in the vicinity of Kodiak Island where grazing lands are quite accessible to markets and year-long transportation facilities.

Within the Chiniak Area of Kodiak Island, that part lying east of the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, the Bureau of Land Management has in recent months issued eight grazing leases to individual livestock operators, providing them with privileges to graze 2,332 head of mature beef cattle the year around on 150,070 acres of public domain at an annual rental aggregating $1,107.31. Five other grazing leases have been granted during this same period in many other parts of the Kodiak Island area, covering 73,881 acres on Sitkalidak Island, 375 acres on Harvester Island, and 75,000 acres on Sitkinak Island, providing grazing privileges for year around grazing of 2,000 head of mature beef cattle and 2,390 head of mature sheep at an annual rental amounting to $1,526.88. Several other applications have already been filed in the Anchorage Land Office for most of the remaining available tracts of unreserved public domain grazing land in the Kodiak area.

Livestock operators in the Kodiak group of islands are presently striving to stock their leased areas with the required maximum numbers of livestock as rapidly as possible. At present there are approximately 675 head of cattle and 300 sheep in this region. In view of this present concentrated grazing activity in that vicinity, it is anticipated that within the near future cattle and sheep will be grazed there in sufficient numbers to warrant the establishment of a well equipped slaughtering and processing plant, probably located in the city of Kodiak, from which Government-inspected Alaskan meat products can be marketed to many parts of the Territory. With successful establishment of one such packing house within the Territory, it is anticipated that the livestock industry will spread rapidly to other parts of Alaska.

Efficiency Corner

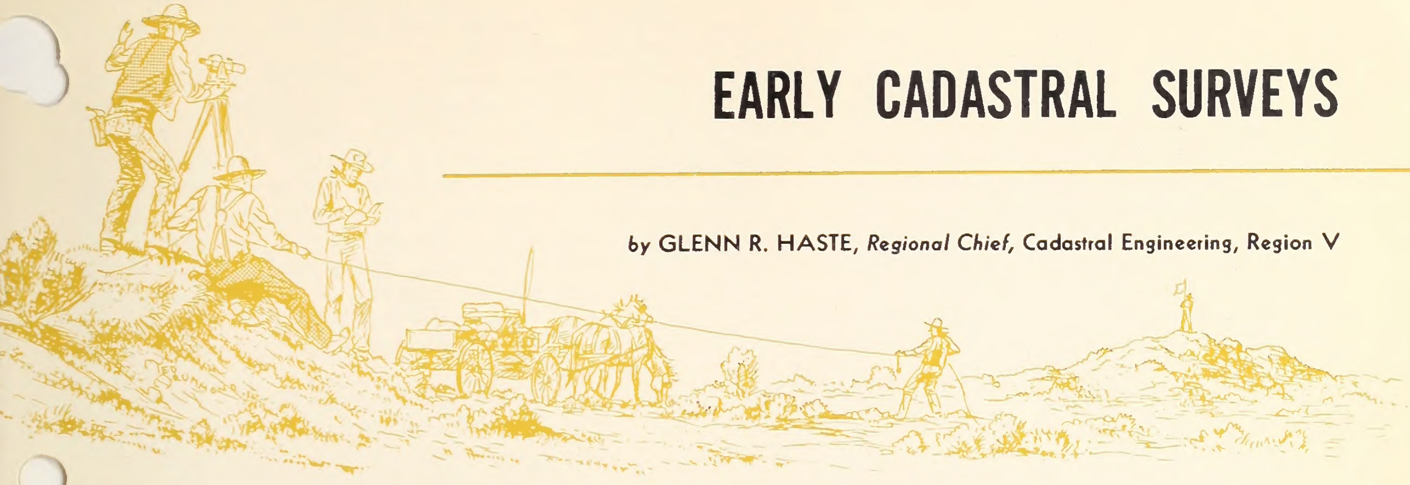
NEW PROCEDURE FOR OIL AND GAS LEASING

Streamlined regulations and procedure of applications to obtain oil and gas leases on the public domain are paying off in better public service. In addition, they also mean increased Federal revenues for national and State use.

In some offices, the issuance of leases is being made a few days after their receipt—as compared to months and sometimes years under the former procedure. In fiscal year 1950, under the old procedures, 25,790 oil and gas cases were closed. In fiscal year 1951, during 5 months of which the new procedure was in effect, 34,562 cases were closed, an increase of 34 percent in closed cases. The revenues to the Government and the various States for 1951 were $20,561,000, as compared to $15,320,000 for 1950, an increase of 33 percent.

Through weaknesses in the former procedures, requiring no specific application form, applicants could obtain and keep options on oil and gas leases on the public domain for indefinite periods by the payment of a nominal fee. Conflicts created, perhaps knowingly, prevented speedy adjudication. During the long period it took to clear conflicts, the applicant maintained his free option, as his rental did not accrue until the lease was actually issued and accepted by him. In many cases these leases were never actually issued. The applicant would withdraw his application when it was offered because he had learned the land was not valuable for leasing purposes.

Under new procedures, the applicant (by way of application) commits himself to take any or all of the land requested, and the available land is leased immediately to the applicant. This permits the Government to obtain the rentals immediately, and the portions due the States and the Reclamation fund also accrue at once.



EARLY CADASTRAL SURVEYS

by **GLENN R. HASTE**, *Regional Chief*, Cadastral Engineering, Region V

In traveling over this great country in airplanes, trains, and cars, we give almost no thought to the pioneers and the early cadastral surveyors who have laid the foundation networks for the development of this rich land. The absence or scarcity of water, and the trouble with the Indians, were serious problems in those early days. All the water holes, springs, and streams were carefully noted by surveyors. Surveys in many areas were initiated and then abandoned because of the lack of water for man and animals.

Many items of interest and importance can be found in old reports of the General Land Office, one of the predecessor agencies of the Bureau of Land Management. Under the heading "Arizona" in the Report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, 1863, a story of interest to Arizonans is told.

"All that part of the former Territory of New Mexico lying west of the 32d Meridian west from Washington, was erected into a separate Territory, styled Arizona, by Act of Congress approved February 24, 1863. A surveyor general has been appointed, who started in August last for Tucson, which was designated by the President for the present location of the government offices of that Territory. No report has been received from him since his departure."

It, therefore, became the duty of Surveyor General Clark to pick out the initial point for surveys in that new Territory. The records show that Clark was instructed to examine and report on the mineral wealth of Arizona in the hopes that these additional resources would largely pay off the Civil War debt. Clark makes this interesting and comprehensive report on the "initial monuments" under date of May 24, 1865.

"Immediately opposite the mouth of the Salado on the south side of the Gila, there is a conical hill about one hundred and fifty feet in height, upon the pinnacle of which Mr. Bartlett, in making the survey of the boundary line under the treaty with Mexico of Guadalupe Hidalgo, established a corner 'to mark the mouth of Salt River'. I visited this monument and found it compactly built of stone, circular, about eight feet diameter at the base, four feet at the top, and eight feet high, with a post four inches in diameter projecting from the center of the top about six feet, upon which is marked: 'United States and Mexican Boundary Survey, 1851.—This monument erected in 1851 to mark the junction of the Gila and Salt River.—A. H. Gray, U. S. Surveyor.' The hill upon which the monument is erected is in fact a part of a short mountain range which extends southeasterly from this point, called Sierra de la Estrella, but is separated therefrom by a narrow valley. It is a mass of igneous rocks, and forms of itself a remarkable landmark: and being situated immediately opposite the mouth of the Salado or Salt River—the geographical position of which has been determined—and, with respect to the arable land of Arizona, being very central, I have selected it as the initial point for the Meridian of that Territory."

The geographical position of the monument as ascertained by Maj. W. H. Emory, U. S. Topographic Engineers, in 1851, is latitude 33°22′57″N., longitude 112°15′46″W. In 1945, a tie was made to the nearby precise triangulation station of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, with resulting position as latitude 33°22′38″N., longitude 112°18′19″W., which is reasonably close to the 1851 determination by Major Emory.

In 1911, U. S. Surveyor Guy P. Harrington made surveys from the initial monument and took a picture of the hill and monument from a point one-half mile eastward. In that year, and for many years afterward, the monument was intact.

In 1945, Engineer Ty White made the tie from nearby triangulation station to a point which he identifies as the initial point. A picture was taken of him and Engineering Aid John Boggs standing in a depression formerly occupied by the initial monument, with the rock mound scattered. Many people think the historic monument should be reestablished. On this point is based the development and progress of the State of Arizona.

NEW TOWNS FOR ALASKA

(Continued from p. 5)

which is above the Arctic Circle, has recently been surveyed by BLM as a town site.

In sharp contrast to Kotzebue is Tok, a brand new town site laid out by the Bureau of Land Management along the Alaska Highway. Near the Canadian Border and at the junction of the Alaska Highway and the Glenn Highway, Tok, with its broad streets and strategic location, may in time become a mecca for travelers and a prosperous shopping center. At a recent townsite sale, 101 Tok lots were sold for $11,685.

Government participation in the planning of Alaska towns is nothing new under the northern sun. The first towns created by the Government accompanied the construction of the Alaska Railroad in the years following 1915. Although these towns are scarcely notable examples of modern planning, what planning was done is far above the pattern achieved in the haphazard growth of other Alaskan cities.

To aid in locating new towns, the Territory is being studied with a view toward anticipating where communities may develop. A basic town pattern is being prepared for such areas. Tok has already been cited as one example; others along the main highways between Anchorage and Fairbanks are Glenallen and Buffalo Center. A plan has recently been completed for Cantwell on the Paxson-McKinley Highway, now under construction.

The Bureau of Land Management's functions in town planning are limited to designing the pattern, surveying the streets, blocks and lots, and disposing of the land. No control can be exercised over the construction and over the speed of development of a new town. Because of lack of zoning authority, the lot sold for a home today may later be used for a place of business.

The only land-use reservations made in the town-site plats as prepared by the Bureau of Land Management are for public uses—Federal, territorial, municipal, school, park and cemetery reserves. Allocation of land for Government buildings must be tied in closely with the most prospective location of commercial areas, even though BLM has no jurisdiction over the latter. Special care must also be exercised in setting aside areas for schools and parks.

How fast a town site becomes a living community depends on economic factors. A town might be a regional trading hub, a Government center, a resort community, or it could rely simply on the proximity of a large military installation.

New industries will create need for new towns in connection with the Bureau of Reclamation's new Eklutna power project near Anchorage. Agricultural centers are being designed for the Kenai Peninsula. The new road connecting the Kenai to Anchorage will go far toward speeding development of new towns in this area. Mineral discovery in some part of the Territory could of course produce a new town, but towns constructed solely for mining-boom purposes are necessarily limited in growth.

Because of Alaska's great variety of weather, there are special problems in town-site planning. It is desirable wherever possible to reduce the number of streets to a minimum. It is, of course, wise to follow topographical features in community layouts everywhere, but in some parts of Alaska the elimination of steep grades and sharp turns is especially important. In areas where snow and ice cover the streets for about half the year, hazards of winter driving can be greatly reduced by providing streets that closely follow the contours of the site.

Sanitation problems must also be considered in town-site planning. Planning must be based upon the assumption that for the early years of the town's growth, individual wells and sewage disposal will be used. Under such conditions, pollution of the individual water supply is a danger that must be eliminated by meeting health standards and providing enough land in each lot for adequately separating the source of water from the point of sewage disposal. Depending on the soil condition, this may in some instances mean that 100- by 200-foot lots will be required.

Despite the great expanse of open land all around the community at the time settlement starts, it is amazing sometimes to find overcrowding in urban centers of Alaska similar to that in the older cities in the States. The blame no doubt lies largely with the setting, until recently, of standard 50- by 140-, or 50- by 100-foot lot sizes in communities laid out by the Government. These lot sizes were in turn copied by many private subdividers. Because of narrow width, depth of the lots is of little benefit.

The increase in street length caused by increased lot sizes can be readily offset by changing street and block patterns from previously accepted sizes to such as will better serve the community. Short blocks and many cross streets, which serve few people, increase municipal costs of construction and maintenance of streets. In Anchorage, as well as in other Alaskan towns, the standard block length is 300 feet. The general trend in new developments in the States has been towards longer blocks of 1,000 to 1,400 feet for residential areas with a minimum of 600 feet. In Anchorage, the application of these standards would show a reduction from 35.2 percent to about 21 percent in the amount of total land area devoted to the public ways. It may be too late to apply such economies to Anchorage, but the opportunity should not be overlooked in planning other communities.

With continued growth of Alaska, the Bureau of Land Management's work in establishing new towns on the public domain is bound to continue as a major function in furthering Alaska's development. Better communities for future generations will be created by properly planning new towns now to anticipate the needs of the future.

BUSINESS SITE. This lodge on the Alaska Highway is typical of the use of public domain for business sites.

ALASKA'S POPULAR SMALL TRACTS

by **HAROLD T. JORGENSON**, *Regional Chief,* Division of Lands, Region VII

Supposing you were in the caravan of migration to Alaska. What would be your first concerns? Very likely, a place to build a home, probably a location for a business, and after that, almost surely, a wilderness retreat to enjoy the famed hunting and fishing. The small tract program of the Bureau of Land Management in Alaska is aimed at meeting those needs.

The boom centers of Anchorage and Fairbanks have been the focal points of much of the program. In the immediate vicinity of Anchorage, 964 small tracts have been made available for home, cabin, or business sites, of which all but 25 are either under lease or have been purchased. On two of the largest and most beautiful lakes near Anchorage, Big Lake and Nancy Lake, and on Point McKenzie across Knik Arm from Anchorage, over 200 cabin sites have been provided for recreational use. Near Fairbanks 340 small tracts have been classified for home, cabin, or business sites, of which all except 57 are either under lease or have been purchased. On the Chena and Salcha Rivers, two of the nearest clear-water streams, nearly 50 cabin sites have been platted out for vacation uses.

In its 3 years of operation, the small tract program has assisted many other communities in nearly every region of the Territory to expand their settlements. Home, business, or cabin sites have been established in southeast Alaska near Ketchikan, Juneau, and Petersburg; in interior Alaska at the important road junctions of Glennallen, Buffalo Center, and Tok; and in south central Alaska on the Kenai Peninsula near Homer and Kenai. In all, 10,350 acres have been classified under the Small Tract Act in Alaska. On this

(Continued on next page)

land a total of 1,991 tracts have been platted of which 1,576 tracts are either under lease or have been purchased. Close to 2,950 acres along the shoreline of Cook Inlet on the Kenai Peninsula have been classified for lease for business purposes to accommodate the owners of set-nets and fish traps and to safeguard shoreline uplands (so necessary to the conduct of fishing operations) from preemption under the Homestead Law.

Provision of small tracts for residential lots situated near growing centers of population, commercial or business tracts located at strategic points near present or projected communities or along Alaska's ever extending highway network, and recreational cabin sites on lakes and streams in the more settled portions of the Territory is still far behind apparent needs. In many localities the need for action is urgent if the Bureau of Land Management is to fulfill its obligation to assist in the settlement and development of Alaska.

Preliminary classification and survey work has been accomplished to provide 135 tracts for home and recreational cabin sites near Kodiak, 53 tracts for home sites near Haines, and 59 business and home sites this spring at Buffalo Center at the Junction point of the Alaska and Richardson Highways. Similar progress has been made to provide 186 additional home site lots in a small tract community adjacent to Fairbanks. Nearly 200 home site tracts northeast of Anchorage, near Fort Richardson, have been classified and appraised for lease and disposal in time for occupancy and improvement this summer. A large number of additional tracts will be classified, appraised, and platted for openings near Anchorage and Fairbanks before this construction season. Upon elimination of lands from the Tongass and Chugach National Forests, several hundred small tracts can be made available for lease and sale as home and cabin sites in the vicinities of Juneau, Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg, Sitka, Craig and Girdwood.

TO HOMESTEAD IN ALASKA

(Continued from p. 4)

moose and fish from nearby woods and stream make for good eating. Mrs. Senske deep-freezes many vegetables for winter months, but they also have time for people and enjoy talking over companionable coffee cups.

These are only a few individual examples of successful homesteaders. There are many others. There are also those who have failed to make a go of it. Failed through lack of courage, capital, or both. Failed perhaps because they came to the country with a glamorous viewpoint on homesteading in Alaska.

To put it plainly, in the language of a man who knows, "The word homesteading, has an attractive and luring sound like a beautiful fishing lure, but it must be used properly or 'no fish'! The oft misguided and ill-equipped homesteader should be told of the rigorous life in prospect for him, the 30° to 40° below temperatures, the long 6 to 7 months winters with snow on the ground, the unfriendliness of the cold outdoor plumbing, the wood chopping for heat, the mud and inaccessibility of some areas, no running water, digging a well by hand in rock, gravel or clay, hauling water, or chopping a hole in the ice to get it and, etc. It sounds rough and it is, and the prospective settlers should know these things."

The Bureau of Land Management in its pamphlet Land Settlement in Alaska gives some down-to-earth advice which homesteaders would do well to take to heart. These are the major points listed by the Bureau:

1. Decide how you expect to make a living until you get your land cleared and in production. On this point, BLM agents emphasize that a man should make sure of the employment situation before he files for a homestead.

2. Choose an area for settlement as to climate, farming, employment, and availability of community services and conveniences.

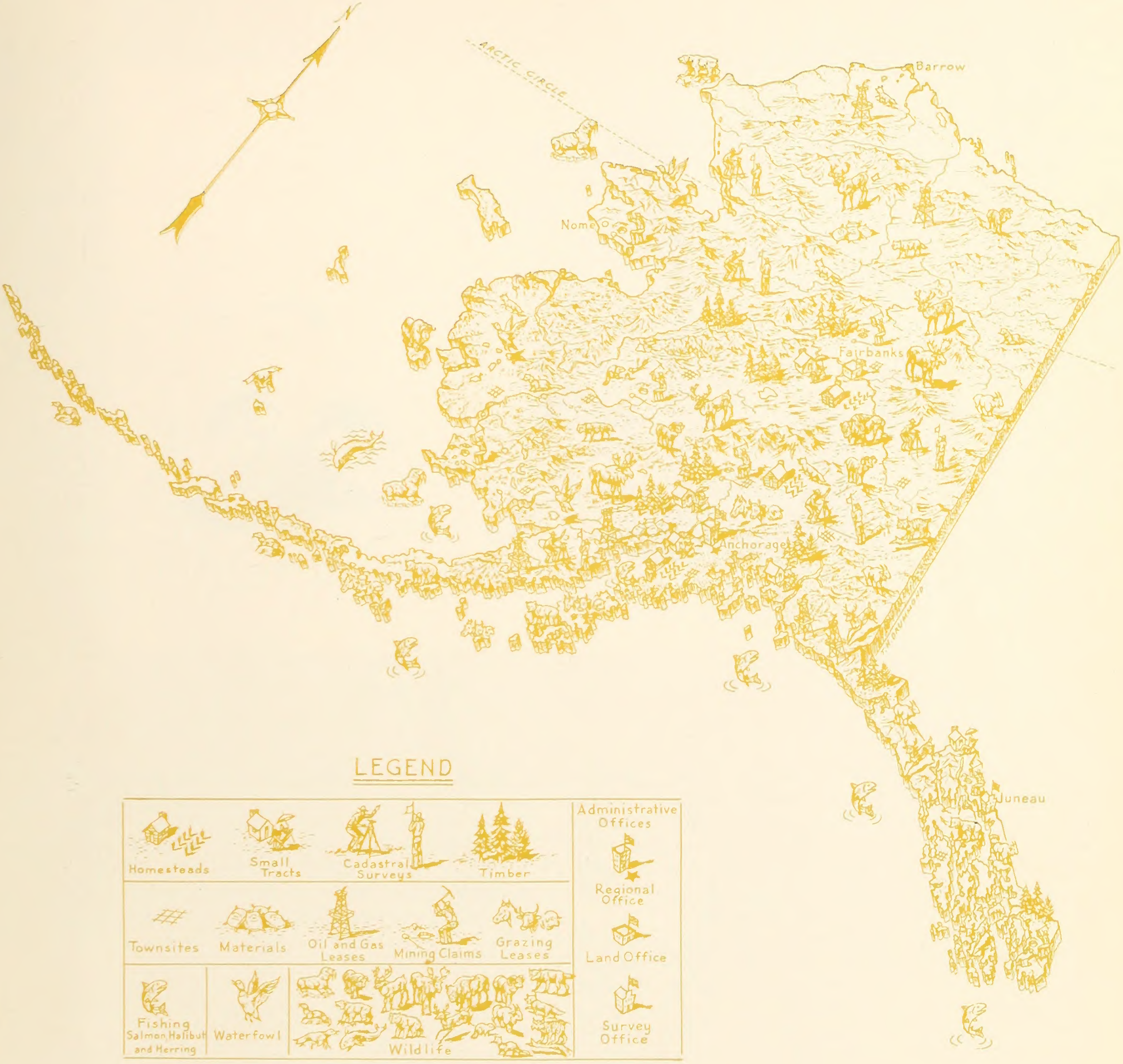
3. Select good land suited to your needs. Examine the soil in the proper season of the year for texture and depth, study climatic conditions, particularly temperature, precipitation, and length of growing season, make inquiry as to crop yields in the vicinity, the cost of clearing, and consider how and where the produce can be sold.

4. Make application for public land only after you have carefully selected a tract and when you are sure that you are in a position to meet the residence and other requirements of the law.

Homesteaders are urged by Regional Administrator Lowell M. Puckett to be sure the land is not withdrawn from entry and that it is worth cultivating. On the first point concerning reservations, Puckett states that a number of areas have been withdrawn at the request of the defense agencies for special use. Anyone who attempts to homestead these areas will necessarily be considered as a trespasser.

In the matter of land worth cultivating, he reminds homesteaders that under the present land laws in Alaska, a homestead claim can be made on land that is unclassified. Lack of classification of the land may seem like freedom of choice. Actually the fact that the land is unclassified creates a problem for the homesteader, for he may pick land totally unfit for agriculture. Puckett points out that in some areas, such as the Kenai Peninsula, the Department of the Interior under special legislation has withheld lands from settlement until an agricultural study could be made of them. The folks who eventually settle these Kenai lands will know what they are getting, and they won't wind up with some muskeg instead of meadow land.

ALASKA LAND-USE AND ACTIVITY MAP



For comments on this map, please see page 16

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IT'S THE LAND LAW

Many a modern Chris Columbus, who hopes to "discover" and claim a secluded island of public domain, may be chagrined to know that the days of 1492 are gone forever. What was easy for the early explorer—the mere erecting of a Spanish flag on San Salvador—has through the years taken on the complexities of the modern age.

Although the original public domain embraced many hundreds of islands, the vast majority passed into State or private ownership during the last great century of land disposal, or are now part of national forests or national parks. Those islands that remain as public domain are often masses of rock, inaccessible, unsurveyed, not classified for disposal or otherwise unavailable to seekers of vacation spots.

The lucky one-in-a-million discoverer of an island who feels sure he has found an island that is part of the public domain must follow a set procedure in "claiming" it for his own.

First, the discoverer must check with the Bureau of Land Management to determine if the island is truly a part of the public domain. If the island is shown on the plats (maps) of the Bureau, and is recorded in the tract books, it will be comparatively easy to determine whether it is public land, and if so, is unreserved.

Islands which are public lands are disposed of in the same manner as other public lands—most likely under the Small Tract Act. Before title to islands can be obtained from the Government, however, they must be surveyed by BLM. If the records show doubt as to status of the island—or the island is not recorded at all—the application must contain a statement as to the earliest date the island is known to have existed.

According to provisions of law, islands in inland navigable waters may be considered public land of the United States if they existed above the ordinary high-water mark in the year the State in which they are situated was admitted into the Union and in non-navigable waters if they were in existence at the date of survey and disposition of the adjacent shore lands. However, if they have formed since the above-mentioned dates, they are not regarded as public land and the question of ownership is controlled by the laws of the State in which they are situated.

Since an island may be acquired under the Small Tract Act, the "Columbus" who discovers an island or other likely vacation spot on public lands and wishes information on how to acquire such land may get a leaflet on small tracts from any Bureau of Land Management office.